Louisiana Plantation Homes

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compiled by the Louisiana State Library

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welcome--

The Louisiana Department of Commerce and Industry welcomes you to visit as many of these fine old homes as possible. Some are open to the public, others may be viewed from nearby streets or highways, and still others are private residences that are listed only for their historical interest. The Department suggests that tourists make local inquiries to obtain further information about each home that may not have been available when this booklet was prepared, or which had to be omitted due to lack of space.

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AFTON VILLA

Afton Villa

OPEN TO PUBLIC

A French-Gothic mansion of 40 rooms with stained-glass windows, towers and extensive gardens, Afton Villa stands at the end of a long avenue of live oaks that lead out to the highway. The driveway creates a memorable scene in the movie "Drango" starring Jeff Chandler, which was filmed here in 1956.

Afton Villa is furnished with imported originals in rosewood and mahogany and heavy carved Flemish oak chairs. A spiral staircase winds three stories to the tower's peak and is a masterpiece in structure and design. The

exterior has Moorish galleries and cathedral windows. A moat was contemplated but rejected because of mosquitoes.

Built in 1849 by David Barrow, the manor house is in the same period and style as the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge. It is said to have been modeled after a villa at Tours, France. The house was built around a cottage constructed on the site of a Spanish land grant to William Barrow, Jr. in 1793.

The house was named Afton Villa because the daughter of the builder was famed for her singing of "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton."

On US 61-65 about eight miles north of St. Francisville. Nominal fee charged.

Albania

The house, which has been splendidly preserved, is a large, white, frame building with six square wooden columns across the front and three dormer windows along its gabled roof. It has a spiral staircase.

It was built in 1842 by Charles Grevemberg, who came to Louisiana as a French Royalist refugee. Another owner of Albania was Isaac Delgado, a Jamaican who came to New Orleans in 1854. He became wealthy in the sugar industry and bequeathed the plantation to the city about 1910 for the maintenance of the Delgado Trades School and the Delgado Museum, which he had also given to New Orleans. It embraced 1,100 acres planted in sugar cane. A private refinery was operated by the city until about a decade ago when it was sold.

More recently, the home itself was sold.

On US 90, on the outskirts of Jeanerette.

Arlington

A two-story house with an under story of brick and a second floor of cypress. It has wide verandas extending

across the front and around the east end of the house on both stories. It is in a grove of ancient magnolia, live oak, cypress, cedar and black walnut trees.

Built about 1841 for Mrs. T. R. Patten and later owned by General Edward Sparrow, senior senator from Louisiana in the Congress of the Confederacy, itwas orginially a one-story house of cypress but he raised it and added an under story of brick.

During the War Between the States it was used as headquarters by Union officers, including MacPherson, McMillian and McArthur. According to tradition, General Grant used the house when he visited Lake Providence. It is near Grant's Canal: the forlorn monument to the unsucessful attempt by the Union general to run a canal across DeSoto Point so his gunboats could avoid the Confederate shore batteries during the siege of Vicksburg in 1863.

It is believed to have been named for an estate in Scott's novel, "The Lady of the Lake."

Off US 65, east of Lake Providence, across Grant's Canal.

Ashland

A huge house of unusual height, surrounded by a colonade of pillars, eight to a side. The ground floor gallery is paved in tile and brick and galleries extend nearly 20 feet on each side. In the lower hallway is the stair, a structure of ageless cypress with mahogany balustrades, which stretches toward the attic.

Built in 1841 by Duncan Kenner, who was Confederate minister plenipotentiary to France, the designer was James Gallier of New Orleans. It was one of the great sugar plantations. Kenner named it after Henry Clay's home.

The plantation later was bought by John B. Reuss and renamed Belle Helene after his daughter, Helen. It is set in a huge horseshoe of live oaks. Scenes for Warner Brothers' motion picture, "Band of Angels," were made here in 1957.

Off La. 30 on the River Road, east bank, six miles above Darrow.

Asphodel

It consists of a raised central structure and two identical wings of brick covered with a smooth plaster. A wide gallery is across the front of the main building and six white Doric columns support the gabled roof which has two dormer windows. Each wing is a miniature of the central building with a small porch.

An example of the Greek Revival style, the house was built in 1835 by Benjamin Kendrick. His daughter was a pupil of Audubon.

Asphodel was a classic name used by the poets for the daffodils, which grew profusely on this place and were introduced to the region by English settlers.

The house was owned by nieces Sarah and Kate Smith for 40 years, who were friends of writer Lyle Saxon.

On La. 68, four miles south of Jackson.

Austerlitz

It has the usual brick basement and one-story frame house above encircled by a wooden gallery. The second floor is of cypress reinforced with brick and mortar. A gallery 80 feet wide and 14 feet deep surrounds the house. It has square wooden pillars below and slender columns above. Both upper and lower entrances are fanlighted. Two-story annex in 1899 brought the size up to 22 rooms.

The plantation was bought in 1783 by Joseph Decuir from two Indian chiefs. The gardens were begun in 1897 and are flanked by a grove of pecan trees planted when the house was built in 1832.

An architect was brought from the Dominican Republic to design the house, which has a West Indies influence.

The house was named for one of Napoleon Bonaparte's battles.

Locke Breaux, brother of Chief Justice Joseph Breaux of State Supreme Court, was a late owner.

On La. 1 six miles south of New Roads, along False River.

Bayside

A two-story building of white-washed brick in the Greek Revival style with six plastered-brick Doric columns and decorative wooden balustrades, Bayside is surrounded by a grove of oaks.

Built in 1850 by Francis D. Richardson, a member of the Louisiana Legislature prior to the War Between the States and classmate and friend of Edgar Allan Poe, it is sometimes referred to as the "Old Sanders Place," because of a later owner.

On the east bank of the Bayou Teche, between Jeanerette and New Iberia, on US 90.

Belle Alliance

This is an elaborate home with tall basement, long two-story columns, outsweeping stairs and ironwork on the balcony and side porches. Six square wooden columns support the roof.

Belle Alliance differs from neighboring mansions for in its structure are combined the classic revival of the 1830's and the airiness that distinguishes the New Orleans French Quarter. Its 33 rooms are strikingly furnished in the Victorian period. The main wing has 24 rooms.

Built in 1846 by Charles Kock, a Belgian aristocrat, it was the home of that family until 1915. It had 7,000 acres, mostly in sugar cane. The Kock garden was noted for its magnificent camellias. Crumbling brick piles mark the Belle

Alliance Sugarhouse, once one of the most important west of the Mississippi.

The plantation today is 4,300 acres of cane land along Bayou Lafourche, a few miles from Donaldsonville, on La. 308.

Belle Grove Site

Built in 1857 for John Andrews, it was the most magnificent plantation house ever constructed in Louisiana. It was an ornate structure in the classic style with an old rose shade of stucco. Basement had dungeons with bar red windows for unruly slaves.

This 75-room mansion cost $80,000 A striking spiral staircase in the rear was the equal of the one in the Old St. Louis Hotel in New Orleans.

One of the great sugar plantations, its great size brought on its abandonment about 30 years ago. Until it burned in 1953, it looked like a great Roman ruin. It was called Belle Grove because it was bought from "Old Man Bell."

On the River Road, west bank, two miles below White Castle, on La. 1.

Belmont

A wooden house with three gables and six square columns supporting the roof, Belmont dates from the late 1700's and is built on a Spanish land grant.

Originally the plantation was called Blackwater but the name was changed after the War Between the States to commemorate the Battle of Belmont in southeast Missouri, in which the family members took part.

On La. 10 in the St. Francisville vicinity.

Bermuda

A large white, plantation house of the "Early Louisiana Type" with a high basement and wide galleries sitting on brick piers. It has a wide spreading roof extending over the narrow facing and supported by many colonettes. Bermuda is a splendid example of a wealthy Louisiana planter's home. It is an expansively proportioned example of French-Spanish construction.

The house was built in 1821 by Pierre Phanor Prudhomme on the plantation settled in 1718 by Emmanuel Prudhomme, who is credited with planting here the first cotton raised in Louisiana.

In the basement is a collection of farm, surgical and workingman's implements dating from the War Between the States. Miniatures, daguerreotypes and silhouettes of this ancient Creole family fill the rooms. It has a century-old Punka-fan in the dining room ceiling and an old carpenter shop.

Eight generations of the family have since inhabited this house.

On La. 1, about 10 miles south of Natchitoches.

Bocage

Its two stories are of brick construction below and of wood above. Across the front gallery is an odd design in wooden pillars; the outer six are thick and heavy and the middle pair thin and tiny in contrast. At the back is a partly enclosed gallery on both floors. A heavy entablature hides the roof.

This finely ornamented gem was built in 1801 by Marius Pons Bringier as a wedding present for his 15-year-old daughter, Francoise, and Christophe Colomb, a Parisian who claimed kinship with Christopher Columbus. It is square in appearence and classic in design.

Bocage, which means "Shady Retreat," in French, was

extensively repaired in 1840 and became one of the showplaces along the Mississippi just before and after the War Between the States.

On the River Road, east bank, two miles above Burnside.

Bondurant House

This one-story house was originally the second story of Pleasant View, a plantation built in 1852 and moved back from the river in the 1880's.

The house was shelled during the War Between the States when Mrs. Bondurant had more than 100 bales of cotton burned to keep it from falling into the hands of the Union forces. When the house was moved cannon balls were found lodged in the timbers. Bullet holes can yet be seen in the front door and in the low half-doors that open on French windows.

On Second Street in St. Joseph.

Burns

Burns is a 1½-story frame building built in 1853 by Zenith Preston. The large rooms are plastered and frescoed. Handsome marble mantels adorn the lower floor and the doors are trimmed in silver.

Off US 65 near Goldman.

Carpenter House

A one-story frame structure set on brick pillars with six square wooden columns and a shingled, gabled roof, the house was a popular inn on the Vicksburg-Monroe stagecoach line during the 1850's.

Located near Bayou Macon (Fr. spelling), the dividing line between Madison and Richland Parishes, this house

was named according to legend for Samuel Carpenter, leader of the Kentucky-Cave-in-Rock Bandits, who was slain near Vidalia, La., in 1803.

On La. 17 in Delhi.

Chopin Plantation Site

The site was the location of the old Chopin Plantation which derives its name from its purchase by Lamy Chopin from a New Englander, Robert McAlpin.

According to legend, McAlpin was the original for the character of Simon Legree in the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin." One of the plantation's old slave cabins was exhibited as the "original Uncle Tom's Cabin" at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

At Chopin, off La. 1 near Clotierville.

Colomb House

A plantation home in minature, Colomb House is a variation of the Greek Revival style. One story high, two rooms wide, it had eight columns across the front, grouped in companionable twos. It was an architect's jewel in miniature whose most unusual feature was a complete room with windows rising in the air above the roof. The room above the roof was used to house the boys of the family. Twin chimney stacks in balanced formation flank the one upper room. A gaily-covered coat-of-arms was put in plaster above the door.

It was built in 1835 by Christophe Colomb, Jr., an inventor, architect, and engineer. One of his experimentations was with bagasse--the pulpy, straw-like residue of sugar cane after the juice has been extracted. He made a hard, board-like product. Today, bagasse is a thriving Louisiana industry and a commercial wallboard, "Celotex," is important in the building industry.

On the River Road, east bank, 11 miles above Lutcher on La. 44.

THE COTTAGE (RIVER ROAD)

The Cottage

OPEN TO PUBLIC

A wide, tall residence in the Greek Revival style, the Cottage has a lower floor of brick and an upper of wood. A dozen Doric columns add a classical touch as they enclose a brick-paved gallery and support a wide second-story gallery and a dormered roof. The paneled doorway is flanked by fluted columns and sidelights and topped by fanlight.

It was built about 1824 by Col. Abner Duncan for his daughter Frances Sophia and her husband, Frederick Dan-

iel Conrad, as a wedding present. Lafayette, Henry Clay, Zachary Taylor and Judah P. Benjamin have been guests.

Frances Parkinson Keyes lived here while writing "The River Road" and other novels, and the Cottage was used for scenes of "Band of Angels," starring Clark Gable.

On the River Road, below Louisiana State University on La. 327. Nominal fee charged.

The Cottage

(ST. FRANCISVILLE)

OPEN TO PUBLIC

A low, rambling two-story house with exceptionally long front gallery, the Cottage, north of St. Francisville, is in reality a series of buildings erected from 1795 to 1859 around an original structure in the Spanish tradition. The structure was built completely of virgin Cypress except for its massive 16 x 16 sills of blue poplar wood. Twelve posts support the gabled roof.

This, the ancestral home of the Butler family, was bought in 1811 by Judge Thomas Butler, who practiced law in the Florida parishes.

Gen. Andrew Jackson was a visitor in 1815 en route to Natchez after victory at New Orleans. Tradition states that he and his large group of officers including his chief of staff, Gen. Robert Butler, brother of the host, and seven other Butlers, so incommoded the host he had to sleep in the pantry.

"The Fighting Butlers" loom large in American history. Col. Thomas Butler (father of the judge) was one of five brothers in the Revolutionary army commended for gallantry by Washington, Lafayette and Wayne. One of the five, Maj. Gen. Richard B. Butler, placed the American flag on the British works at Yorktown after Cornwallis' surrendered. Capt. Richard Butler, a cousin of the judge, became owner of Ormond Plantation in 1802.

The cottage boasts a host of relics and correspondence with the great figures of early America. Still in possession

THE COTTAGE (ST. FRANCISVILLE)

of descendants, the Cottage also has the original land grant signed by the Baron de Carondelet in 1795. Another of its mementoes is the gold flatware and china used at a banquet in 1872 given by Dr. Newton Mercer of New Orleans for the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia.

On US 61-65 at Bains. Nominal fee charged.

Crescent

Gabled roof and eight square columns supporting a wide gallery are features of this fame house. The great front doorway is flanked by French windows that extend almost to the top of the 14-foot ceiling and enters upon a

spacious hall. Original brass knobs and locks of the door are in use. Its transoms of stained glass were imported from Europe.

Inside, a spiral stairway with a mahogany railing ascends from the rear of the hall to the second floor. The plastered walls and ceiling ornaments are well-preserved.

The original house was constructed about 1832 and the present front section was added in 1855.

Four and one-half miles east of Tallulah.

Ellerslie

A tall square building surrounded by great white columns, Ellerslie is a splendid example of the classical Louisiana plantation home. Along with nearby Greenwood, it is ranked as one of the two most perfect examples of the Greek Revival in the Deep South.

Originally a cotton and cane plantation, it is now a cattle ranch owned by Edward Percy.

Built in 1835 by Judge William C. Wade, a millionaire from the Carolinas, Ellerslie lies near the Little Bayou Sarah, northeast of Bains on La. 66.

Elmwood

A reconstruction with part of the original building remaining, Elmwood is of the Creole raised-cottage style. This historic antebellum mansion is one of the oldest in the Deep South.

A disasterous fire in 1940 destroyed most of the building, but the first-story pillars remained intact and were incorporated into the present structure. Elmwood today is a massive, low-slung, one-story building with a sharply pitched roof broken by three dormers. A striking line of ancient oaks surround the mansion.

Built in 1762 at Harahan, Elmwood was probably constructed by La. Freniere who came over from France with Iberville and Bienville. The land granted to him in the Elmwood tract is still under the original title. According to tradition, W. C. C. Claiborne, first American governor of Louisiana, also spent some years at Elmwood.

On La. 48 at Harahan near the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Evergreen

This two-story brick structure was built about 1840 by Ralph Brou in the Greek Revival style. Tall, massive stucco and brick columns support the roof and wide galleries. The hipped roof is broken by dormer windows and topped by a balustrade. A curving exterior stair mounts to the portico of the second floor.

To the rear is a complete group of buildings including pigeonniers, servants' quarters and barns. Even the privies, which the French called Louis XIV's, were of brick and of the same classic design. Large magnolias may be seen and a fine avenue of live oaks, 39, to a side and 40 feet apart, lead away from the river.

One of the finest examples of a Louisiana planter's house of more than a century ago, the plans and dimensions of Evergreen are now in the federal archives at Washington.

On La. 18 east of Edgard.

Farrar House

A one-story frame antebellum house with cast iron posts and grillwork built by Judge Thomas P. Farrar, it is located south of Main Street on the levee in St. Joseph and is used as a community center today.

Filhiol House

A one-story frame house with square cypress pillars on the front porch and a fanlight above the doorway, Filhiol House features in its construction lumber from nearby woods and hinges and locks wrought in the blacksmith shop.

Inside, the woodwork of the front room is carefully joined with pegs and no nails were used. It has no ceiling but the large rafters have been carefully smoothed and painted. The dining room is designed to resemble the dining salon of an old river packet.

Among its possessions is an old culverin (a firearm) from the armament of Fort Miro mounted on a wooden block and bound with iron hoops.

The house was built in 1855 by John B. Filhiol, wealthy planter and grandson of Jean Baptiste Filhiol, or Don Juan Filhiol, commandant of the Postes des Washitas (Ouachita Post) and founder of Monroe.

Off US 165, 12 miles south of Monroe, near Buckhorn Bend on the Ouachita River.

Gossypia

Combining Gothic, Spanish and Moorish features, Gossypia's square Moorish tower rises from the front of the hipped roof. The two-story house is surrounded by a picket fence.

Built in 1856 by either Don Goza or his son-in-law, Charles Goff, the plantation was named for the scientific term for the cotton plant gossypium. Cotton and pecans are the principal crops.

Off US 65, along the Mississippi, four miles south of the Arkansas line.

GREENWOOD

Greenwood

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Temple-like Greenwood, biggest residence in the Felicianas, is considered the finest example of classic colonial existing in the South. It is 100 feet square with 28 white brick columns supporting the flat, corniced roof. The usual second floor gallery is missing as the columns open freely on all sides. A belvedere on the roof affords a view of the surrounding countryside.

With its 70-foot baronial hall and paneled cypress doors with silver knobs and hinges, Greenwood stands today substantially as it did a century ago. The pool which borders the house was formed by the excavation of clay to make bricks during its construction.

This Greek Revival mansion was built by William Ruffin Barrow in 1830 on the site of an earlier Spanish land grant. Now a cotton and sugar cane plantation, Greenwood in its glory employed 700 slaves to cultivate its 12,000 acres.

Greenwood has been featured in national publications and was used in 1956 for filming the motion picture "Drango" starring Jeff Chandler.

On La. 66, seven miles northeast of Bains. Nominal fee charged.

Hermitage

It was built in 1812 by Marius Pons Bringier for his son Michel Douradou Bringier when he married Aglae Du Bourg, 14-year-old niece of the Abbe Du Bourg of the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans.

With original walls of brick-between-posts surrounded by Doric columns, the Hermitage was a splendid mansion in Greek Revival style. Two dormer windows break the roof and an inner gallery on the second floor does not detract from its overall massive simplicity.

The Bringier men were among the Creoles who fought under Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans and Dorandou named his home The Hermitage after the Tennessee home of his hero.

East bank, 3 miles above Burnside.

Houmas House

Once one of the great sugar plantations of Louisiana, Houmas House is a two and one-half story brick structure with 14 columns rising on three sides, and an enclosed cupola or watchtower and three handsome dormer windows

on the roof.

Because of its great size, it is one of the most imposing mansions in Louisiana. Hexagonal garconnieres are at either side of the main house and a wing in the rear has a carriage drive through it. The beautiful live oak alley which once led to the river landing was destroyed in the moving of the levee.

Built in 1840 by Colonel John Preston Smith of South Carolina who had married the daughter of General Wade Hampton of Revolutionary War fame, it was named for the plantation, which in turn took its name from the Houmas Indians who once owned the land.

John Burnside acquired Houmas House, including the 10,000 acres, in 1857, for $750,000.

Above Burnside on La. 44.

Indian Camp

The house is of white brick with heavy columns and dates from the late 1850's. It is now the administration building of the National Leprosarium at Carville, only institution of its kind in the United States.

On La. 30 at Carville.

Jefferson College

Here is a magnificent, elongated three-story plantation house that has 22 columns in an unbroken row across its main facade with a triangular pediment above the central section and a wide gallery.

This Greek Revival style structure was established in 1831 as a non-sectarian college for the higher education of the sons of wealthy Louisiana planters. It was state-supported for a few years until it closed. Bought by Valcour

Aime in 1859, it was reopened as Louisiana College. A new charter was obtained from the state in 1861.

During the War Between the States it was used as a barracks by the Union forces. In 1864, Aime gave it to the Roman Catholic Marist Fathers who operated it as a boarding school for boys. Now it belongs to the Jesuit Order and the property is their Manresa Retreat House for Laymen.

On La. 44, two miles east of Convent.

Layton Castle

A huge structure whose bricks are a dull pink in color and whose principal architectural feature is a tower worthy of feudal Europe, it is not antebellum but is historically interesting because it incorporated within its walls part of the old Bry House built about 1810 by Judge Henry Bry, prominent early settler of Monroe.

Layton Castle was built in 1910 by the widow of Robert Layton II, grandson of Henry Bry. Within its walls are treasured lithographs and chromolithographs of pictures painted by John James Audubon and a small folio of his works.

Bry was a close friend of Don Juan Filhiol and Baron de Bastrop and occasionally entertained Audubon. He headed the delegation that welcomed the steamboat "James Monroe" to Fort Miro in 1819 and renamed the settlement Monroe in honor of the occasion.

Layton Castle has the charm of an Old World manor house and rare camellias have grown to enormous size in its gardens. About 70 feet from the house in a grove of trees and shrubs is the cemetery of the old Bry homestead, enclosed by a brick wall. A dilapidated little brick house against the west cemetery wall housed his silkworms. Some of the mulberry trees he planted are still thriving.

In the 1300 block of South Grand Street in Monroe.

Locust Grove Site

One of the oldest homes in the Felicianas, Locust Grove was established in 1798 by Olivia Ruffin Barrow. It was looted and partially destroyed in the War Between the States and now only the foundation remains.

Center of interest is the grounds which contain a little shaded cemetery and the grave of Sarah Know Taylor Davis, first wife of Jefferson Davis, who later became President of the Confederacy. Tradition tells that she failed to obtain permission for the marriage from her father, later President Zachary Taylor, and the couple eloped.

She died in 1835 and was buried in the plantation graveyard. Another grave in the cemetery is that of General Eleazer W. Ripley, hero of the Battle of Lundy's Lane near Niagara Falls during the War of 1812.

Off La. 10 east of St. Francisville.

Madewood

One of the best-preserved plantation homes of the antebellum period is 3,000-acre Madewood, whose name comes from the fact that its timbers were carved by hand from plantation cypress. It follows the Greek Revival tradition, having its columns resting on the stylobate, or continuous pavement, instead of individual pedestals. Its 25-foot ceilings, large central halls, spacious ballroom, carved winding walnut staircase and more than 20 rooms indicate its magnificence. It is a large two-story house of stucco covered brick set on a low terrace.

Begun in 1840 and completed eight years later, Madewood was the home of Colonel Thomas Pugh of North Lafourche. He died of yellow fever before it was finished. Six Ionic columns support the great roof. On either side of the main structure are connecting wings that duplicate its

architectural theme. Its interior is dominated by a massive entrance hallway with Corinthian columns.

On La. 308, two miles south of Napoleonville.

Magnolia

A one and one-half story house built a few years after the War Between the States, Magnolia rests on the foundation of a former house burned during the war while attacked by General Nathaniel Banks of the Union Army. The stocks in which unruly slaves were punished can still be seen under the front gallery.

Mathew Hertzog, who built the present house, was the grandson of a former owner by the same name who made Magnolia the center of the Southern racing world and owned the internationally famous racer, "Flying Dutchman." The thoroughbred is buried on the grounds.

Records are incomplete telling just how old Magnolia Plantation is, but it is known that Ambrose Lecompte owned the plantation in the early 19th century.

At Magnolia the brick slave quarters, a row of little brick houses built like tiny forts and roofed with tin, still stand.

The house takes its name from a magnificent grove of Magnolia trees, which with the century-old oaks form one of the finest plantation home settings in the South.

On La. 423, 21 miles south of Natchitoches.

Melrose

Outstanding among the "Early Louisiana Type" plantation homes is Melrose on Cane River. It is a raised cottage with the first floor of brick and the second of cypress. A rear wing and two hexagonal garconnieres were later improvements. At one end of the lower floor, a stair rises

to the gallery above.

At the left is a cabin built of cypress and chinked with mud and moss, formerly a slave hospital. The "African House," at the rear is a hutlike structure of whitewashed brick, square in shape with a hipped, shingled roof that overhangs to such an extent as to shelter wagons and teams. It has been named by the Federal government as one of the 13 distinctive buildings in the South.

The plantation was originally called Yucca after the Spanish Dagger found nearby. Marie Therese Coin-Coin, a slave in the household of Juchereau St. Denis, founder of Natchitoches, obtained her freedom and a huge land grant sometime after 1750. She built the original plantation residence, Yucca House (still standing), a barn and the "African House" and grew prosperous cultivating indigo. She was the mother of Augustin Metoyer, who built Melrose manor in 1833.

Since 1875 the plantation has been the home of the Henry family and has been devoted to the raising of cotton. It was renamed after Melrose Abbey in Scotland. It became a center for the arts and a haven for writers during the score of years before the death of Mrs. Cammie Garret Henry, wife of John H. Henry. Patron of authors and painters, she assembled a fine private library and an extensive collection of scrapbooks on Louisiana history. Lyle Saxon stayed at Yucca House while writing "Fabulous New Orleans" and "Children of Strangers," the latter a fictional account of the Mulatto planters of Cane River. Among the other writers who have stayed at Melrose have been Alexander Woollcott, Rachel Field, Rose Franken, Gwen Bristow, Roark Bradford and Harnett Kane.

On La. 423, 16 miles south of Natchitoches.

Nottoway

This two-story brick house has 22 slender cypress columns supporting the encircling galleries, spacious

rooms on each floor, and the magnificent White Ballroom. With its 50 rooms, it is the largest plantation home in Louisiana. Belle Grove once surpassed it, but it has since burned and Nottoway is again the biggest.

Resting on a high basement with a curved iron stairway, it has a great quantity of ornate cast iron filigree work adorning the verandas and balconies. Nottoway resembles the villas of Europe of the time of its construction more than it does the typical plantation home. The mansion is furnished in the Queen Anne period.

The house was orginally named after a county in Virginia. Its great size, height and whiteness have also caused it to be called White Castle. Other names have been Bayou Goula, Randolph and now, Llanfair.

Built in 1857 by John Hampden Randolph of Virginia, who made a fortune in sugar, Nottoway is said to be the the first plantation home to have a bathroom on the second floor. It must have been needed, for the owner had eleven children.

On La. 1, one and one-half miles east of White Castle.

Oak Alley

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Magnificent Oak Alley is in the Greek Revival style of plastered brick, 70 feet square, girded by 28 Doric columns each eight feet in circumference.

The famed oak alley, a double row of live oaks, 14 to a side, leads to the River Road some 300 yards distant. The trees range from 15 to 22 feet in circumference and their branches have long since interlaced forming a leafy canopy from the road to the house. Spacing between the trees is exactly 80 feet.

On the grounds are old kettles once used for boiling sugar and are now water lily and water hyacinth pools with goldfish.

Built in 1836 by Jacques Telephore Roman, brother of Andre Roman, who was twice-governor of Louisiana, it

OAK ALLEY

was named Bon Sejour originally. Later the name was changed because of the interest in the avenue of oaks. The first successful attempt at grafting pecans was performed here in 1846 by a slave gardener.

On La. 18, one and one-half miles east of Vacherie. Nominal fee charged.

Oakland

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Built in 1821, the plantation house is a large raised home with an 18-foot veranda surrounding it on all sides. Erected by slave labor, only the finest heart of cypress woods were used in its construction, joined entirely without nails. Walls of the supporting foundation are of brick

and adobe, held together by deer hair. The builder was Pierre Emmanuel Prudhomme, the third generation of his family in America and a successful planter of cotton, tobacco and indigo. The eleventh generation of the same family live in the house today.

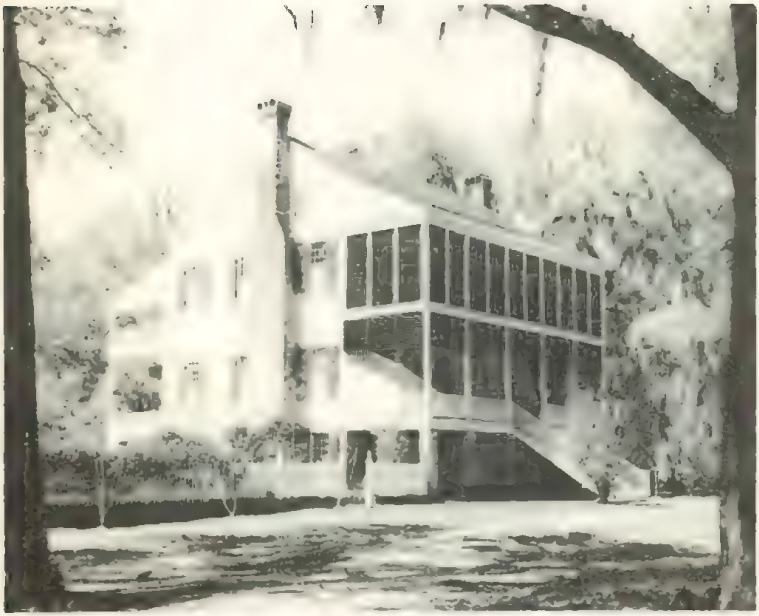
Among its many interesting furnishings are trundle and four-poster beds, oil paintings with saber slashes by Union soldiers, handmade iron cooking utensils and tools and other curios. A set of drilling tools used by a slave blacksmith are on display and are remarkable for the fact that they dug deep enough to cause natural gas seepage.

Open daily during mornings, 9 to 11, and afternoons 2 to 5, with admission set at 50 cents. On La. 423, 11 miles south of Natchitoches.

OAKLAND PLANTATION

Oakley

OPEN TO PUBLIC



OAKLEY

Oakley is famed as the plantation where John James Audubon first became acquainted with the wildlife of the Feliciana Country. No place in Louisiana is richer in memories of the naturalist. It is now the site of the Audubon Memorial State Park, a 100-acre tract set aside as a wild life sanctuary, and offering overnight trailer facilities.

The plantation was established in 1770 by Ruffin Gray whose widow married James Pirrie, who built the present house between 1808-10. Their daughter, Eliza

Pirrie, "belle of the Felicianas," was a pupil of Audubon.

It is a two-story frame house built over a raised brick basement. A curved stairway joins the two galleries and the house has a simple, air-swept appearance that fits its location.

This great cotton plantation is located near the Bayou Sara in West Feliciana Parish, off US 61 on Highway 323, east of St. Francisville. A museum entrance fee of 50 cents is charged for adults. Children under 12 and supervised-school groups are admitted free.

Parlange

Built in 1750 by the Marquis Vincent de Ternant on False River. Parlange is one of Louisiana's oldest and most charming plantation homes. It is of the "Early Louisiana Type," designed for comfort and fashioned out of materials on hand.

Its two stories are a raised brick basement and a second floor of cypress with twin chimneys atop the roof. Galleries completely encircle the house and twin brick pigeonniers are at either side. All are painted white and trimmed in green.

Originally an indigo plantation, Parlange was changed to a sugar cane plantation in the 19th Century by Charles Vincent de Ternant, son of the builder.

Parlange was designated a historic building by Secretary of the Interior Harold A. Ickes as a mansion typifying the tastes and tradition of the antebellum period.

Parlange was occupied by both General Nathaniel Banks of the Union Army and General Dick Taylor of the Confederacy during the Red River Campaign in the War Between the States.

On La. 1, five miles south of New Roads.

Richland

This is one of the most palatial homes in the Felicianas. It was built by Elias Norwood in 1820 for his bride, Katherine Chandler of South Carolina.

Construction is of white painted brick with four Doric columns in the front portico. The brick was made from native clay by slave labor. Inside, however, a fine contrasting elegance is found. An exquisite unsupported spiral stairway soars to the third floor, and beautiful Italian marble mantels adorn each room on the lower floor.

Richland is owned by Charles Wilson, former president of General Motors and Secretary of Defense in President Eisenhower's cabinet.

Located 5 miles east of Norwood on La. 19.

Rienzi

An Old World design is "Spanish style" Rienzi with its twin stairways curving gracefully from the entrance. It has a paved lower porch and a gallery that encircles the house. It is of cypress, cedar and brick. The trees above the roof are hung with Spanish moss. It was named after Cola di Rienze, a 14th Century Italian patriot.

It was built in 1796, reportedly as a retreat for Queen Maria Louisa of Spain in event of defeat in the Napoleonic Wars. Juan Ygnacio de Egana, believed to be the builder, obtained title to Rienzi and lived there for nearly half a century following the return of Louisiana to France and sale to the United States.

On La. 308 near Thibodaux.

Rosedown

A two-story house with wings of cement-covered brick, its six columns support wide front verandas. Its formal

gardens were copied after those at Versailles by French landscape gardener who designed the orignial. Marble statues of the gods and goddesses of mythology and Italian statuary abound. The house represents a blending of the Louisiana, Georgian and classic styles.

Built in 1835 by Daniel Turnbull for his wife Martha Hilliard Barrow Turnbull, who named it Rosedown.

The land of Rosedown Plantation was originally owned by John Mills, one of the founders of St. Francisville. One of the interesting furnishings of the house is a cross stitch fire screen embroidered by Martha Washington.

About five miles east of St. Francisville on La. 10, Rosedown is expected to be open to the public in 1958.

San Francisco

OPEN TO PUBLIC

SAN FRANCISCO

Here is a great, sweeping structure with a double gallery like twin decks, teeming with scrolls, fluted pillars

and rococo grillwork. The lavish interior was done with the help of Canova, nephew of Napoleon's favorite sculptor, who also executed the frescoes in the Old St. Louis Hotel in New Orleans. The manor, an architectural oddity of "Steamboat Gothic," has much gingerbread, small windows, ironwork and a wide outdoor stairway.

It was built about 1850 by Valsin Marmillion whose father built one of the first sugar mills in the St. John the Baptist Parish and owned several plantations nearby.

It was said that with the addition of a stern wheel the house could have joined the pleasure boats that passed it by on the broad river. The house was the subject of a novel written by Francis Parkinson Keyes called "Steamboat Gothic."

On La. 44 about two and one-half miles above Reserve. Nominal fee charged.

The Shadows

OPEN TO PUBLIC

The Shadows on the Teche is one of the Deep South's most fabled houses. It sits flush with the ground and is two stories high with an outside stair, typical of early Louisiana plantation houses. Of handmade brick aged to rose perfection, the house is set in a lush tropical setting of live oaks, camellias and cedars. Eight huge masonry columns are at the front of the 16-room house. A thick grove of bamboo hides the traffic on busy Main Street at New Iberia.

This house was built in 1830 by David Weeks, a man of enormous size (seven feet tall) whose achievements matched his physique. The Bayou Teche is at its back door and the Old Spanish Trail (US 90) in front.

The Shadows was part of the great sugar empire of the Weeks family. Weeks Island, part of their holdings of 10,000 acres of incomparable sugar land, has since been discovered to contain immense salt deposits below the

THE SHADOWS

marshes. In David Weeks' time, New Iberia was the center of the social life of the Attakapas prairies.

The rectangular formal garden to the east of the house is enclosed by clipped bamboo hedges, bordered with walks of hand-shaped bricks from the former kitchen and slave quarters, and contains a marble sun-dial dating from 1827 with its industrious engraving, "Abundance is the daughter of economy and work."

Weeks Hall, present owner and descendant of the builder and noted Louisiana artist, began the restoration of the house in 1922. Thirteen live oaks still stand and since they were planted too close for normal growth, they have reached immense heights in fighting for the sun.

On Main and Weeks Streets, New Iberia. Nominal fee charged.

St. John

The large frame house is white with four tall wooden columns of classic style, a hipped roof and a belvedere. Leading through the grove in front of the house is an inner avenue of pines and an avenue of oaks. At the left of the grounds is a grove of orange trees.

Built in 1828 by Alexandre Etienne de Clouet, a descendant of the Chevalier Alexandre de Clouet, early commandant of the Poste de Attakapas. A large wooded tract near the plantation was maintained as a deer park by de Clouet.

About one and one-half miles north of St. Martinville on La. 31.

St. Louis

St. Louis is a tall, white building in the Greek Revival style with six Ionic columns supporting the first gallery and six of the more ornate Corinthian style of the second floor. A belvedere atop the roof afforded a sweeping view of the river and rich cast-iron work gave it Creole character. An unusual feature of a South Louisiana home, was the cellar.

It was built in 1858 of cypress with shutters of green trim by Edward J. Gay of St. Louis who named it after that city.

The plantation was originally known as Home Plantation when established by Capt. Joseph Erwin in 1807.

On La. 1, two miles below Plaquemine.

Stubbs House

Square columns support the hipped and dormered roof of a one-story frame structure with a carriage porch. In

the early spring immense wisteria vines climb a great height into the trees at the rear of the house. The patch of bamboo on the grounds is unusual this far north.

Built in 1853 by Frank P. Stubbs, it is one of the oldest homes in Monroe.

At 916 Riverside Drive, Monroe.

Tezcuco

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Tezcuco is located in the heart of the "Acadian Coast"--land along the Mississippi in St. James and Ascension parishes, the site of the first large Acadian settlement in Louisiana. Requiring five years of careful construction, the house was 100 years old in 1955.

Built for Benjamin Turead, a veteran of the Mexican

TEZCUCO

wars, it was named after a lake near Mexico City, where Montezuma fled to escape the Spanish conquistador, Cortez.

The home is a large, raised "cottage" (in comparison to more elaborate and grander homes of the period) but it would hardly be considered such today, as front bedrooms are 25 feet square and ceilings are 15 feet high.

Side galleries of lacy ironwork, three outside staircases in the rear of the house, a circular driveway beneath century-old live oaks and magnolias, antiques made by New Orleans' finest pre-Civil War cabinet-makers, and a modern ceramic studio in a seprate building nearby are among Tezcuco's attractions.

There is a small charge for admission to the old home (but not to the ceramic studio, which is open free of charge). Located two miles below Burnside and 18 miles above Lutcher on State Highway 44.

'Uncle Sam' Site

Uncle Sam represented one of the most efficient plantation groups ever assembled in the United States, but its 47 buildings have since fallen prey to the river. It had seven large buildings and 40 smaller ones.

It was reported that the main house cost $100,000 in cash and an additional $75,000 for its furnishings.

The buildings were arranged about a central house, whose massive and classic simplicity was the keynote of all. The name is said to have come from the builder who was known as "Uncle Sam" to his friends.

Eight miles above Lutcher on La. 44.

Upper Pargoud

A frame structure of two stories with gabled roof broken by wide three-windowed dormers and supported by

classic columns, it is considered one of the oldest plantation houses in Ouachita Parish.

It was built in early 19th Century as an overseer's home by Hypolite Pargoud, one of Monroe's first wealthy planters and merchants. About 400 yards north of the plantation house between the levee and Ouachita River is the Pargoud Indian Mound. According to tradition, the mound is the burial place of Wichita, beautiful daughter of the Indian chief, Ucita. She died after she had been deserted by Juan Ortego, a member of de Narvaez's exepedition who had married her in gratitude for saving his life.

At end of Island Drive in Monroe.

Van Fossen

This one-story frame cottage is set on huge cypress blocks. Among the original furnishings are a rosewood suite which is supposed to have been made for the Napoleon House in New Orleans when Mayor Girod offered his home as a refuge for the deposed emperor.

Off US 65 near Lake Providence.

Waverley

The two-story frame building is of Georgian-English architecture with six square columns on each floor. Both entrances are columned and fanlighted. The wooden mantels and molded wainscoting are admirable and the clothes closets and built-in cupboards are unusual for Louisiana homes of this period.

Built in 1821 by Dr. Henry Baines for his wife Emily McDermott Baines, it was named for one of Scott's novels. Audubon taught music here to his pupils in the Feliciana Parishes. In 1830, "Flying Charlie" McDermott launched an unsuccessful flying machine from a big live oak in the garden. He was the brother of the mistress of Waverley.

On US 61 near Bains.

Wavertree

This well-preserved two-story house is plaster covered brick "veined" to simulate marble. Crowning the hipped roof is balustraded observatory. All of the mantels on the first floor are of marble; the locks and hinges of the doors are of silver.

In the rear are two kitchens on long "ells" that are reached by covered walkways. There is also a pulley that was used to hoist the logs necessary to fill the immense fireplace.

Built by Elaine Bowman just before the War Between the States, Wavertree has had a succession of owners. One of these, John Smyth, maintained a breeding farm for horses. "Yellow Gold Dust," a big bay stallion exhibited by P. T. Barnum, was a product of Wavertree stables.

Off US 65 a few miles below St. Joseph.

White Memorial

OPEN TO PUBLIC

This old plantation home is an example of the earliest type of Louisiana plantation home, built of hand-hewn cypress timber, put together with wooden pegs, and elevated on tall brick pillars. It is the "raised cottage" type so popular in the late 18th Century and has a brick basement.

It was built about 1790 by Edward Douglas White, Sr., who was judge of the Lafourche Interior Territory, Governor of Louisiana from 1835-39, and a member of the U. S. Senate. It is the birthplace of Edward Douglas White, the state's most famed jurist. He served on the Louisiana Supreme Court, as a member of the U. S. Senate, and as an associate justice of the U. S. Supreme Court for 16 years and as Chief Justice for 11 years.

The 1,600-acre plantation was bought by the government in 1936 and is now a memorial controlled by the

EDWARD DOUGLAS WHITE MEMORIAL

Chief Justice White Memorial Association.
On La. 1 five miles north of Thibodaux.
Admission is free.

Wooten House

The house is simple in design, being one-story in height with six square wooden columns across the long front gallery. Immense hand-made iron hooks hang from jugs filled with water were suspended and swung back and forth by little Negro slaves to cool the drinking water.

The Wooten House was once the overseer's home for the Lower Pargoud Plantation.

It is located at 2111 South Grand Street in Monroe.

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